

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 27, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon, Ohio.

It is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of County Commissioners that resulted in such formal action, were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The President of the Board, James W. Dvorak, opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Dear Lord,

I put everything in your hands today: my family, my health, my home, my security and all my worries. Thank you for carrying my burdens.

Amen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to comment about items on today's agenda.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of October 16, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of October 21, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Supplemental Appropriations in the Commissioners Reserve Fund for Phase 2 starter appropriations for 2026 to cover change orders, new equipment or other purchases; Cash transfer from the Community Corrections Fund to the Probation Services Fund to reimburse monies used to cover payroll; Cash transfer from the General Fund to Family First Council for the January – March 2026 commitment; Cash transfer from the Commissioners' Office to the unemployment rotary fund; Travel requests from the Common Pleas Court; Then and Now from the Common Pleas Court to Ravenwood Mental Health Center for Climb Jail Group sessions from September and November 2025 that were not previously encumbered; a payment for ADP to Docusign, Incorporated for electronic signature software renewal in the amount of \$26,910.00 and a payment for the Engineer's Office to Morton Salt for road salt in the amount of \$79,360.11.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-009 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 27, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

RAVENWOOD HEALTH

Vicki Clark introduced herself as the CEO and President of Ravenwood Health. Ms. Clark explained that Ravenwood Health is the largest behavioral health agency in the county with about 250 employees and serve about 4,000 people a year. Ravenwood Health works with the Commissioners to run the Youth Center. Ms. Clark briefly explained that they went through a succession planning process in looking for the next leader of Ravenwood Health. Ms. Clark

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

explained that Ravenwood has been working closely with the Community Counseling Center of Ashtabula on a number of projects, offering a number of the same programs and serving the same clients. There has been a lot of talk about merging and that Mr. Bolino would be a great leader, so the timing was right. Effective February 2, they will be fully merged and remain Ravenwood Health and Paul Bolino will be the new CEO. Mr. Bolino expressed his appreciation to meet the Board today, and working in Geauga County. He is excited to expand Ravenwood Health services into Ashtabula County. Mr. Dvorak asked about how many clients they serve in Ashtabula, to which it was noted about 4,500 clients annually and in total it will be well over 8,000. Mr. Bolino noted that Community Counseling Center of Ashtabula will be bringing about 120 into Ravenwood Health's pay system for a total of 370 employees. They are working to honor Ms. Clark and her forty years with the agency.

The Board surprised Ms. Clark with a resolution on her retirement.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-018 Honoring Vicki Clark upon her Retirement and for her dedicated service to Geauga County.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #26-018
Date: January 27, 2026

**RESOLUTION HONORING VICKI CLARK UPON HER RETIREMENT
AND FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO GEAUGA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Vicki Clark is a licensed professional clinical counselor with supervisory endorsement, holding a B.A. in Psychology and an M.Ed. from Kent State University. She has spent her career providing Geauga County residents and those in surrounding communities with behavioral health and substance abuse services; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Clark started her career with Ravenwood Mental Health Center in 1986 as the Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Program, and subsequently held additional leadership roles, including Director of Emergency Services, Drug and Alcohol Treatment, and Mental Health Treatment. In 1989, she was promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer; and

WHEREAS, in October 2013, Vicki Clark was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Ravenwood Mental Health Center, where she brought over 30 years of experience providing mental health and addiction services from a consumer perspective, with best practices that laid a framework to promote recovery and resiliency. During her tenure, she expanded the organization's scope and impact, increasing annual revenue from approximately \$6 million with 100 employees providing 25 programs to more than \$20 million annually, with 257 employees providing 38 programs; and

WHEREAS, under Vicki Clark's leadership, Ravenwood experienced significant growth, including a merger with the Community Counseling Centers of Ashtabula, combining more than 122 years of collective mental health and addiction services in the region; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners wishes to recognize and honor Vicki Clark on the occasion of her retirement and for her many years of dedicated service to the residents of Geauga County and the surrounding communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution becomes part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

Upon approval, the Board presented Ms. Clark with her resolution and posed for a picture.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF COUNTY ROADS BY APPLYING PAVEMENT MARKINGS, YEAR 2026

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve a resolution to improve various sections of county roads by applying pavement markings for the Year 2026. This is the annual striping program, which covers about 80 to 90 miles of the county highway system. Mr. Hajjar noted that in high traffic areas or in the Amish areas of the county, they tend to do more frequent striping as it gets worn off more quickly. It is done on a three-year cycle, and so they do about one third (1/3) of the roads a year. There was brief discussion about bidding on the project and the contractors usually extending pricing to the townships.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-010 to Improve Various Sections of County Roads by Applying Pavement Markings, Year 2026.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026

Resolution: #26 - 010

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
VARIOUS SECTIONS OF COUNTY ROADS
BY APPLYING PAVEMENT MARKINGS, YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require safety improvements on various county roads in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022; and

WHEREAS, this Board acknowledges that pavement markings must be maintained on county highways in Geauga County for safety reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require an improvement to various highways by applying pavement markings to county highways within the County as determined necessary by the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE BASCOM ROAD BRIDGE (STRUCTURE #BR-0069-01.01) IN HAMBDEN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve a resolution to improve the replacement of the Bascom Road Bridge. Mr. Hajjar noted that this is a small concrete structure at the end of its service life. The township is looking to resurface Bascom Road in the next few years. This action will get the bridge replacement done ahead of that project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-011 to Improve the Replacement of the Bascom Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0069-01.01) in Hambden Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026
Resolution: #26 - 011

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
THE REPLACEMENT OF THE BASCOM ROAD BRIDGE
STRUCTURE BR-0069-01.01 (SFN 2831899)
IN HAMBDEN TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require the reconstruction of the bridge over Stone Creek on Bascom Road (TR-0069), at mile marker 01.010 in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require the replacement and reconstruction of the bridge, by the removal of the existing bridge structure, installation of a new bridge structure and the grading, paving, widening, and draining of the road in the immediate vicinity of the bridge, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer) is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Hambden Township Board of Trustees and the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE MESSENGER ROAD
(CH-0031, SECTIONS B-C) IN AUBURN AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIPS**

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to improve Messenger Road in Auburn and Newbury Townships. Mr. Hajjar explained that this is a resurfacing project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-012 to Improve Messenger Road (CH-0031, Sections B-C) in Auburn and Newbury Townships.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026

Resolution: #26 - 012

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
MESSENGER ROAD (CH-0031), SECTIONS B-C
IN AUBURN TOWNSHIP AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require the improvements of Messenger Road (CH-0031), Sections B-C, from Stafford Road (TR-0187) to Ravenna Road (SR 44) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer) is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Auburn Township Board of Trustees, the Newbury Township Board of Trustees, and the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE MUMFORD ROAD (CH-0024, SECTIONS E-F) IN TROY TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to improve Mumford Road in Troy Township. Mr. Hajjar explained that this is a mill and fill resurfacing project and will complete the section from State Route 422 all the way to State Route 168.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-013 to Improve Mumford Road (CH-0024, Sections E-F) in Troy Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026

Resolution: #26 - 013

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
MUMFORD ROAD (CH-0024), SECTIONS E-F
IN TROY TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require the improvements of Mumford Road (CH-0024), Sections E-F, from Main Market Road (US 422) to Patch Road (TR-0205, south) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer) is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Troy Township Board of Trustees and the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE BASS LAKE ROAD (CH-0023, SECTIONS D-G) MUNSON AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIPS

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to improve Bass Lake Road, Sections D-G, adding that this is two projects but one continuous section of road. This will include from Butternut Road up to the City Corporation limit and the southern portion to Mayfield Road. will The project will be paid for by local funds but also funding from Ohio Public Works grant.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-014 to Improve Bass Lake Road (CH-0023, Sections D-G) in Munson and Newbury Townships.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026
Resolution: #26 - 014

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
BASS LAKE ROAD (CH-0023), SECTIONS D-G
IN MUNSON TOWNSHIP AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require the improvements of Bass Lake Road (CH-0023), Sections D-G, from Butternut Road (CH-0021) to Woodiebrook Road (TR-0100) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer) is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Munson Township Board of Trustees, the Newbury Township Board of Trustees, and the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE BAINBRIDGE ROAD
(CH-0011, SECTIONS A-H) IN AUBURN AND BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIPS**

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to improve Bainbridge Road in Auburn and Bainbridge Townships. This resolution will be for all of Bainbridge Road, that will include from the county line to Washington Street, including bridge and culvert replacements and full resurfacing in 2028.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-015 to Improve Bainbridge Road (CH-0011, Sections A-H) in Auburn and Bainbridge Townships.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026

Resolution: #26 - 015

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
BAINBRIDGE ROAD (CH-0011), SECTIONS A-H
IN AUBURN TOWNSHIP AND BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require the improvements of Bainbridge Road (CH-0011), Sections A-H, from the Cuyahoga County Line to Washington Street (CH-0606) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022. This includes the reconstruction of the bridge over the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River on Bainbridge Road at mile marker 00.210.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer) is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Auburn Township Board of Trustees, the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees, and the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE AUBURN ROAD (CH-0004 SECTION Q) IN CHARDON TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to improve Auburn Road in Chardon Township. Mr. Hajjar explained that this is partnered with Thwing Road, Auburn Road connection, over to State Route 6, that had been previously approved.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-016 to Improve Auburn Road (CH-0004, Section Q) in Chardon Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026
Resolution: #26 - 016

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
AUBURN ROAD (CH-0004), SECTION Q
IN CHARDON TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare require the improvements of Auburn Road (CH-0004), Section Q, from Thwing Road (CH-0027) to Chardon Road (US 6) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer (Engineer) is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to R.C. Section 5555.09, the Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Chardon Township Board of Trustees and the Engineer.

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE EXEMPTION FOR THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN EXCESS OF TEN AND THE EXEMPTION FOR THE PERCENTAGE OF THE IMPROVEMENT TO BE EXEMPTED IN EXCESS OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT RELATING TO THE PROPOSED TIF ORDINANCE FOR THE HERITAGE POINTE INCENTIVE DISTRICTS 1-5

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to approve the resolution objecting to the exemption for the number of years in excess of ten and the exemption for the percentage of the improvement to be exempted in excess of seventy-five percent (75%) relating to the proposed TIF ordinance for the Heritage Pointe Incentive Districts 1-5 in Middlefield Village. There was a brief discussion that the objection does not stop or oppose the development, but rather preserves the county's statutory rights under Ohio law.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-017 Objecting to the Exemption for the Number of Years in Excess of Ten and the Exemption for the Percentage of the Improvement to be Exempted in Excess of Seventy-five Percent relating to the Proposed TIF Ordinance for the Heritage Pointe Incentive Districts 1-5 (PP Nos. 19-072972, 19-044150, and 19-070800 as such parcels may be further sub-divided, combined, re-combined, re-numbered, or re-platted) in accordance with R. C. 5709.40 (E)(2).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 27, 2026
Resolution: #26-017

RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE EXEMPTION FOR THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN EXCESS OF TEN AND THE EXEMPTION FOR THE PERCENTAGE OF THE IMPROVEMENT TO BE EXEMPTED IN EXCESS OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT RELATING TO THE PROPOSED TIF ORDINANCE FOR HERITAGE POINTE INCENTIVE DISTRICTS NO. 1-5 (PP Nos. 19-072972, 19-044150, and 19-070800 as such parcels may be further sub-divided, combined, re-combined, re-numbered, or re-platted) IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.C. 5709.40(E)(2)

WHEREAS, on or about January 8, 2026, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners ("County") received formal notice from the Village of Middlefield, Ohio ("Village") of the Village's intention to consider the passage of the TIF Ordinance ("Ordinance") pursuant to Section 5709.40(E)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the passage of the Ordinance by the Village would exempt from real property taxes 100% of the incremental increase in assessed value of certain parcels of real property identified in the Ordinance for thirty (30) years pursuant to Section 5709.40(C) of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance further provides that, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.40(E), for years eleven (11) through thirty (30) of the exemption period, the County would be entitled to a portion of the service payments in lieu of taxes in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the property tax payments the County would have received had the improvement not been exempted pursuant to the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, two hundred and eight (208) single-family homes, appurtenances related thereto, and other improvements as described in the Ordinance are proposed for construction within the area proposed for tax exemption and the true value in money of the improvements is estimated to be approximately \$75,920,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the proposed duration and percentage of exemption materially affect County revenue predictability and long-term service obligations; and

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

WHEREAS, the proposed incentive districts consist of a large-scale residential development that will generate long-term service demands without corresponding non-property-tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Village anticipates that service payments in lieu of taxes created by the improvements will be used to pay for public infrastructure improvements which will serve properties exempted by the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Section 5709.40(E)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code permits a board of county commissioners of a county within which incentive districts and real property tax exemption pursuant to Section 5709.40(C) of the Ohio Revised Code will be located, to object to the exemption for the number of years in excess of ten (10) and the exemption for the percentage of the improvement to be exempted in excess of seventy-five percent (75%); and

WHEREAS, if a board of county commissioners objects, the board may negotiate a mutually acceptable compensation agreement with the legislative authority of the municipality and the compensation provided to the board cannot exceed the property taxes foregone due to the exemption; and

WHEREAS, if a board and legislative authority for the municipality fail to negotiate a mutually acceptable compensation agreement, the ordinance adopted by the legislative authority shall provide to the board compensation in the eleventh (11th) and subsequent years of the exemption period equal in value to not more than fifty percent (50%) of the taxes that would be payable to the county; and

WHEREAS, if a board's objection includes an objection to the exemption percentage in excess of seventy-five percent (75%), compensation shall be provided equal in value to not more than fifty percent (50%) of the taxes that would be payable to the county on the portion of the improvement in excess of seventy-five percent (75%), were that portion to be subject to taxation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County objects to the exemption for the number of years in excess of ten (10) and the exemption for the percentage of the improvement to be exempted in excess of seventy-five percent (75%), as provided in Section 5709.40(E)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County requests the Village enter into discussions with the County for purposes of negotiating a mutually acceptable compensation agreement for the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County does not otherwise waive any rights, including but not limited to, its right under Section 5709.913 of the Ohio Revised Code to receive a portion of the service payments made each year equal to the amount calculated under Section 5709.913(C)(4) of the Ohio Revised Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Village of Middlefield no later than thirty (30) days after the County's receipt of the Village's notice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution become part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

BOARD DISCUSSION

Commissioner Spidalieri wanted to discuss a letter received yesterday from NOACA. Ms. Brakey stated that when the NOACA Board approved bylaw changes, some of those changes require ratification by the individual counties and some do not.. Due to a lawsuit filed by Mr. Claypool, NOACA is choosing to be safe and they are requesting the counties ratify all the

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

changes. Ms. Brakey stated that one part of the ratification changes Geauga's seats from three commissioners to three appointees by the commissioners. Mr. Spidalieri raised concern over why the Board as a whole did not have a discussion about this and raised the question about how this came to be. Ms. Brakey noted that due to pending litigation, it is probably best not to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents came before the Board to make public comment; each was given three minutes per policy. These residents expressed their feelings, concerns and frustration over the letter received from NOACA regarding the changes to the Code of Regulations and the ratification process. Those residents included Skip Claypool, Tiffany Broadbent, Christine Stenzel, Kristen Hall, Jonathan Broadbent, Carol Roberts, John Shippatello, Lynda Retic and Brad Lenett.

Mr. Claypool provided a copy of a "Case for Change" to the Board, which is a presentation about joining Lake County to form an MPO and leave NOACA. Mr. Claypool asked the Board to review the plan and consider the change.

During public comment, the Board continued to discuss NOACA and how the ratification process with the five counties is handled. Currently, all five counties must agree to make a change to the Code of Regulations. With this change, it would now allow an individual county to make a change regarding their allocated seats instead of requiring the other counties to make that approval.

Mr. Shippatello from Russell Township expressed his concern about property taxes. If the county has a surplus in carryover, why is that funding not being given back to the residents? He asked the Board to look at providing reductions. Mr. Shippatello mentioned the children's services levy.

Ms. Brakey briefly explained the difference in levies, qualified and non-qualified. It was noted that property taxes have increased due to previously suppressed levies being reinstated and new levies voted on being approved.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment of a public employee, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1).

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:27 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Deputy County Administrator Mark Jimison, and Department on Aging Director Jessica Boalt. The Board returned at 10:38 a.m. and as a result, the following actions were taken:

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the Voluntary Disability Separation Request in accordance with OAC 123:1-30-02 for Mindy Hudec, Information and Referral Assistant.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Information and Referral Assistant (#1017) Grade 5, Step 4. This position will remain posted until filled.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to move into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for public purposes, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(2).

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Mr. Jimison, Ms. Boalt and Community Economic Development Director Gina Hofstetter. The Board returned at 10:55 a.m. and as a result, no action was taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending January 14, 2026, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.
- b) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Board Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2025
- c) Geauga County Humane Society 2025 Annual Report

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue, 1/27 Investment Advisory Committee, 9:00 a.m., Geauga County Office Building, Room B303

Tue., 1/27 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 2/3 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 2/10 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
January 27, 2026

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK